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FRIDAY
JULY 31, 1953

E. had brought down a couple of important messages, and I read back to Tommy this morning answers to be paraphrased by him. It seems de Gasperi may still preside over the Baden-Baden meeting on August 7 in spite of his domestic political difficulties.

It is a blustery day outside and, on the heels of my half-hour talk with Paris, Traff arrived bearing a gift of a 50-year-old bottle of Calvados. Isabel is mured in the coiffeur's keep.

It rained this afternoon so we took the children on a little motor whiz to Le Croisic, which has some amazingly fine 18th Century houses.

Tonight Monsieur and Madame Porthault invited E., Peasie, Audrey and myself to dinner with themselves and their daughter Danielle. They drove us along the seaside, known as "The Savage Coast", to Le Croisic. Instead of the gentle slope of the La Baule beach, along this portion all is rocky, wild, untamed. There still remain many German concrete blockhouses, once part of the great Atlantic Wall.

In a small restaurant at Le Croisic, conducted by a retired orchestra leader, we had a stupendous meal. Soup, flavored with extract of conger eel, palourde (which tastes like a cross between clams and snails), [illegible] l'amoricaine, mutton chops, and kirsch-soaked fruits, with t[illegible] and always welcome Muscadet. It was a perfect jaunt, from whic[illegible] after midnight.

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